

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
U.S.S. Lead Response - SitRep #46



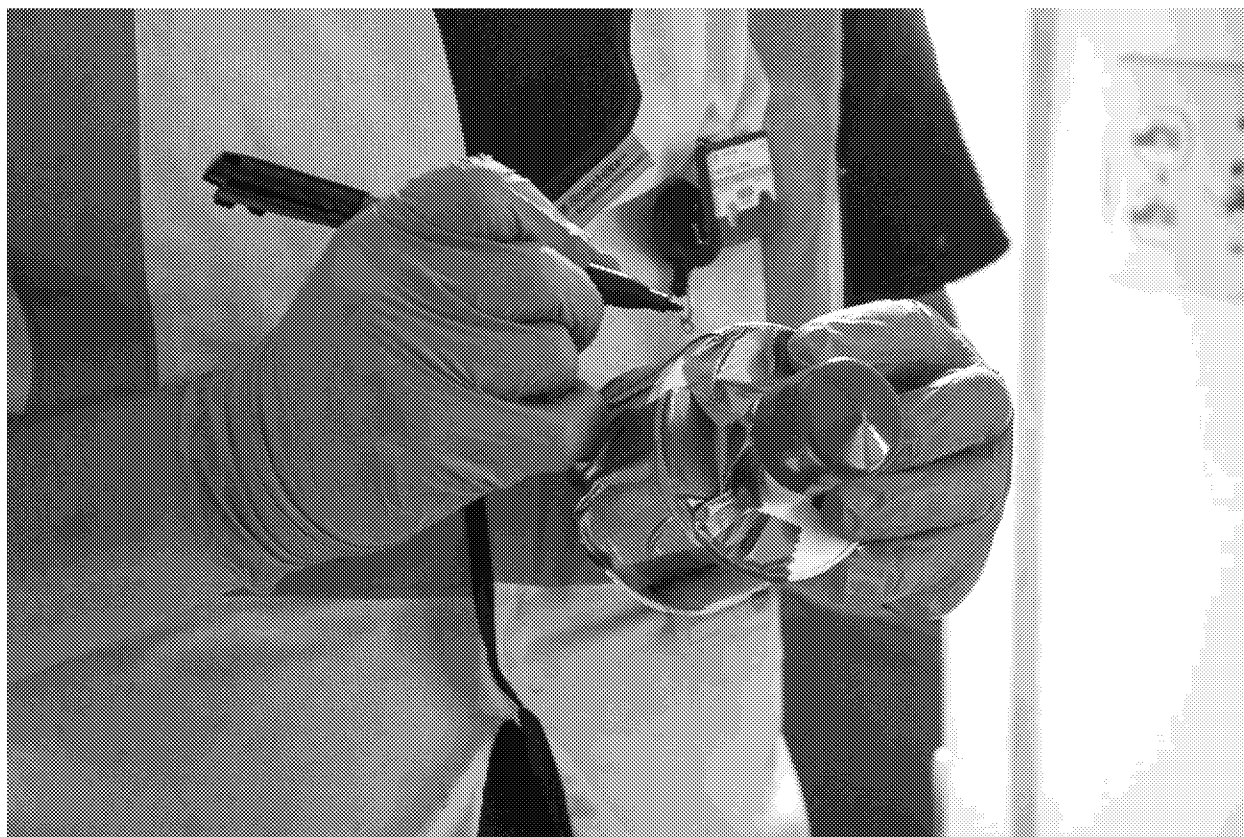
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 5

Subject: SitRep #46
U.S.S. Lead Response
East Chicago, IN

To: U.S.S. Lead Response Distribution List

Through: Jim Mitchell, Incident Commander
From: Kirstin Kuenzi, Situation Unit Leader

Date: 10/24/16
Reporting Period: 10/19/16, 1500 hours – 10/24/16, 1500 hours



Labeling a sample taken indoors.

(Credit: Emergency Operations Center SharePoint)

Section 1: Introduction & Site Background

The U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (U.S.S. Lead) site is located in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana. A copper smelter, lead refinery and secondary lead smelter operated on-site from the 1920s to 1985. Smelting operations volatilized metals including lead and arsenic. Some lead-containing dust was wind deposited on the area soils during these operations. Blast furnace slag was stockpiled south of the plant building and spread once a year over an adjoining wetland south of the Site. The primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic which are present in exposed soils and subsequently could be tracked into the area residences.

EPA listed the U.S.S. Lead site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2009. The site includes part of the former U.S.S. Lead facility along with nearby commercial, municipal and residential areas. The overall site has been divided into three zones. The Removal Program is currently addressing soil and residential contamination in Zone 1 and specifically at the West Calumet Housing Complex (WCHC). Mulch has been placed over all exposed soils at the WCHC. Indoor sampling has been conducted in a subset of WCHC homes and analytical results are being validated. Teams have been mobilized to communicate directly with residents, develop temporary relocation procedures, develop cleaning procedures, and initiate outdoor sampling. The Remedial Program is currently collecting samples in Zones 2 and 3, and the analytical results will be evaluated for other potential areas needing remediation.

EPA is working in a Multi-Agency Coordination Team with the City of East Chicago, the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA), the State of Indiana, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1.1 Incident Command Post

The U.S. EPA Incident Command Post (ICP) is located in the Carrie Gosch Elementary School at 455 E 148th St, East Chicago, IN 46312. The staging area for the response is located at E. 149th Place and McCook Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312.

1.2 Objectives

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response personnel.
- Provide and manage necessary communications, both internally and externally.
- Continue home cleaning and temporary relocation for residents in Zone 1.
- Continue sampling, as appropriate, in all zones.
- Conduct soil excavation, backfill, and restoration in Zones 2 and 3.
- Continue to reach out to residents who have not responded to cleaning requests.
- Effective command, communications and control from job-site to Region 5 and EPA HQ.
- Manage media inquiries for accuracy and relay contamination results/lead levels to families.
- Effective temporary relocations for families with minimal disruptions to daily lifestyle.
- Begin planning for future demobilization.

1.3 Staffing

As of 1500 hours, 155 people were checked in either on site or in the EOC today. For more detailed staffing information, see **Section 3: Metrics Table** or **Appendix B: Organizational Chart**.

Section 2: Activities during Reporting Period

2.1 Incident Command

- Attended OPS call with EPA senior management and HQ at 0900 on 10/20/2016.
- Attended East Chicago report out with Command and General Staff and Regional Management at 1500 on 10/21/2016 and 10/24/2016. Calls will now be reduced to Monday and Wednesday only.
- Attended MACT call with other agencies at 1400 on 10/21/2016.

2.2 Sampling Team

- Collected pre-cleaning indoor dust samples at eight residences in Zone 1.
- Collected zero indoor dust samples in Zone 2.
- Collected indoor dust samples at zero residences in Zone 3.
- Collected post-cleaning efficacy samples at one residence in Zone 1.
- All six air monitoring locations are in place and operating.

2.3 Community Involvement Team

- For the reporting period, total contacts as of 1500 is 154 for all zones (including walk-ins, outgoing calls, home visits, and incoming calls).
- Answered the EPA hotline (219-801-2199).
- Scheduled zero appointments with residents for relocation interviews.
- Scheduled nine appointments with residents for dust sampling.

2.4 Interview/Relocation Team

- No major issues reported on the final close out forms.
- Completed seven interviews, seven agreed to house cleaning.
- Scheduled temporary relocation move-out dates for the homes interviewed that granted access.
- Nine families currently on temporary relocation.

2.5 Liaison

- No liaison activities conducted this reporting period.

2.6 Public Information

- Zone 2 desk statement is currently under review.
- Responding to press inquiries.

2.7 Safety

- No injuries or illness reported this period.
- Routine site safety inspections and monitoring continuing as required.
- Completed safety inspection of Zone 3 excavations and backfilling activities.

2.8 Finance

- Reminder to check the R5EOC email from 8/29/16 at 1038 for USS Lead Deployment accounting codes. Do not use 2016 accounting codes!
- If you have any questions regarding site costs, contact the Incident Commander, Jim Mitchell.

2.9 Remedial (Zones 2 & 3)

- Two sampling teams in Zone 2 continued with soil sampling and attempting to secure Access Agreements.
- During the reporting period, collected 11 Access Agreements.
- One team staged in the Field Office to process samples and complete database requests.
- As of 1500, 398 properties have been sampled in Zone 2 and 416 in Zone 3.
- Excavation and fill work continues at a solid pace. Four additional properties should begin excavation by the end of the month, for a total of 19 properties with excavation completed or in progress.

2.10 Data Management

- Continued daily data loading and GIS webviewer development.
- Coordinated with START Contractor (SRS) equipment logistics requirements to perform air monitoring and sampling in Zone 3.
- Continued development of i-forms to support field remediation activities.
- Preparing information to support U.S.S. Lead webviewer demonstration for EPA Administrator.

Section 3: Metrics Table

Area of Sites	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Total	
Metric	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total
Community Involvement								
Interactions with Residents in Zones 1-3 (walk-ins, outgoing/incoming calls, home visits, etc.); includes multiple contacts with the same people								1159
Temporary Relocation								
Relocation Interviews Conducted	7	259					7	259
Cleaning Access Agreements Signed	7	258					7	258
Declined Cleaning	-	26					-	26
Currently Relocated Residences	9							
Homes Cleaned	25	216					25	216
Belongings Cleaned (No relocation)	-	2					-	2
Households Returned Home	25	212					25	212
Vacant Units Per ECHA	2	28					2	28
Outdoor Soil Sampling								
Total Properties		-		596		468	-	1,064
Total Priority Properties (1200 Pb/68As)	-	-	-	TBD	-	TBD	-	TBD
Access agreement signed (outdoor soil sampling)	-	-	10	485	1	417	11	902
Access denied	-	-	-	6	-	51	-	57
Not yet contacted	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	105
Properties Soil Sampled	-	-	26	398	-	416	26	814
Indoor Dust Sampling								
Properties Scheduled for Indoor Dust Sampling Appointments	9	232	-	-	-	-	9	232
Total Properties with Indoor Dust Samples Collected*	7	260	-	5	-	18	7	283

Area of Sites	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Total	
Metric	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total
Residences Verbally Contacted about Sampling Results Prior to Mailing Letters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
Result Letters Sent to Residents (may be multiple times per residence)	-	374	-	137	-	503	-	1014
Pre-Excavation Tap Water Sampling (Priority Property)								
Access denied					-	3	-	3
Properties with Tap Samples Collected					5	31	5	31
Properties provided bottled water					3	15	3	15
Remedial Action (Priority Properties only for Zones 3)**								
Total properties targeted for remedial action (Excavation, Backfill, restoration)					-	39	-	39
Access Agreements Signed					5	32	5	32
Access denied					-	-	-	-
Properties with Excavation completed					3	12	3	12
Volume of Soil removed (cubic yards)					785	2414	785	2414
Properties with back-fill completed					3	10	3	10
Properties with topsoil completed					2	8	2	8
Properties with Post-Excavation Tap Samples Collected					2	6	2	6
Residences Verbally Contacted about Final Water Results Prior to Mailing Letters					-	-	-	-
Post-Excavation Tap Water Result Letters Sent to Residents					-	-	-	-
Properties with restoration completed					2	8	2	8
Properties that meet maintenance period end date (30 days after restoration)					-	-	-	-

Area of Sites	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Total	
Metric	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (10/19/16 – 10/24/16)	Cumulative Total
Post-Excavation Tap Water Sampling (Priority Property)								
Properties with Tap Samples Collected					2	6	2	6
Properties provided with a water filter					2	6	2	6
Residences Verbally Contacted about Tap Water Sampling Results Prior to Mailing Letters					-	-	-	-
Samples that exceed lead (15ppb) or copper (1.3ppm)					-	-	-	-
Result Letters Sent to Residents					-	-	-	-
Final Inspection (Priority Properties for Zones 3)								
Final Inspection Complete					-	-	-	-
Residences Verbally Contacted about Final Inspection Results Prior to Mailing Letters					-	-	-	-
Completion Letters Sent to Residents					-	-	-	-
Personnel							Total (today)	
EPA On-Site							19	
Coordinating Agency On-site							-	
Indiana State Department of Health							-	
Contractors/Other Personnel							135	
EPA in Emergency Operations Center (EOC)							1	
Total							155	

* Priority properties are being tracked under separate metrics table.

** Priority properties had soil results of > 1200 ppm lead and/or > 68 arsenic at a depth of 0-6 inches.

Section 4: Definition of Terms

Acronym	Definition
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
DOJ	Department of Justice
ECHA	East Chicago Housing Authority
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ERRS	Emergency Rapid Response Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICP	Incident Command Post
ISDH	Indiana State Department of Health
ORC	Office of Regional Counsel
NPL	National Priority List
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SitRep	Situation Report
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
WCHC	West Calumet Housing Complex
U.S.S Lead	U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc.
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

Appendix A Site Diagram



Appendix B Organizational Chart

